

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected the claims 1 through 15 of the present application citing under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yin (2002/0091539) as a primary reference and has cited text of certain sections of the Federal Register (65 Fed. Reg. 82796) and Smithies (5,818,955) as well as citing personal knowledge of certain other aspects of the present invention in formulating a rejection of a certain number of the claims (Examiner's Official Notice).

Yin teaches a method and system for monitoring contracts in a multilateral environment having two or more trading partners. This system is based on a hub and spoke architecture. The hub represents each partners. Each of the partners is using a partner system, a user interface for receiving one or more contract clauses and defining and extracting its own version of metadata based on and from the contract clauses. A graphical user interface presented on the partner systems permits one or more customizable rules to be defined bearing that each rule includes at least one condition and one more actions to be performed in response to the condition. The Yin system monitors the one or more contract clauses with the rules. This system performs one or more predefined actions when a contact clause satisfies the requirement of the customizable rules. Smithies discloses a computer based method and system for capturing and verifying hand-written signature. The image of the document is displayed and the user signs the document electronically and the handwritten signature is electronically captured. With the Smithies method, a set of measurements relating to the hand-written signature is determined and stored in a signature envelope. There is optionally a check of the document can be determined and stored in a signature envelope. The signature envelope is thereafter encrypted and can be communicated to another application or computer platform or stored for later verification.

In response by the applicant has amended the independent claims of the present application to be characterized, *inter alia*, by additional steps which relate to the generation of a self-certified database and also includes the steps of determining whether the digital signals corresponding to a entity is in the database such that an entity can enter a binding contract with the knowledge that the other contracting entity

will be bound to be compliant with the disclosure of patent confidential and personal information. In addition, certain of the independent claims has been amended, *inter alia*, to include the step of only entering into a contract if other entities are, in fact, in the self-certified database.

As such, the invention as found, in amended claims 1, 4, and 11 is neither hinted nor suggested by the applied references alone or in combination. For example, Yin exclusively discloses a hub and spoke arrangement for a trading environment, in total contrast to the present invention in which the entities deal with one and other in a multilateral environment akin to an electrical multiplexing construct.

Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and incorporates the limitations thereof including those provided by this amendment, and also provides a step for providing electronic interface means for negotiating additional terms with respect to use or the disclosure of private data. Claim 3 is patentable over Yin and the other references provided by the Examiner for all the reasons set forth above in respect to claim 1. And also there is no hint or suggestion of the limitation set forth in claim 3 being taught in the references applied by the Examiner.

Claim 4 has similarly been amended and is now patentable over all the reasons set forth in respect to claim 1 and note that the teachings of Smithies alone or in combination with Yin do not hint or suggest that claim 4 is currently amended.

Claims 5 through 10, likewise, depend from and incorporate all limitations of base claim 4 and further limit the invention with limitations set forth in the respective claims. Similarly, there is no hint or suggestion of the present invention as found in amended claim 4 and further limited by the respective limitation of claims 5 through 10.

Claim 11 has been, likewise, amended in a matter similar to that of claim 1 and is, likewise, patentable over the references applied by the Examiner as there is no hint or

suggestion of the invention claimed in the amended claim 11 further limited by the reasons noted above.

Dependent claims 12 through 15 provide further limitations set forth in their claims and incorporate all limitations of claim 11 as currently amended. There is no hint or suggestion of the invention of claim 11 as further limited by the respective limitations of claims 12 through 15 as per the references applied by the Examiner in formulating his rejection.

For all the reasons noted above, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and pass the case as amended to issue.

Please charge the fee for the attached Two Month Extension to our Deposit Account No.13-0235. It is believed that no additional fees or deficiencies in fees are owed. However, authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No.13-0235 in the event any additional fees are owed.

Respectfully submitted,

By /J. Kevin Grogan/
J. Kevin Grogan , Esq.
Registration No. 31,961
Attorney for Applicant

Customer No. 35301
McCORMICK, PAULDING & HUBER LLP
CityPlace II, 185 Asylum Street
Hartford, CT 06103-4102
Tel: (860) 549-5290
Fax: (413) 733-4543